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AUTHOR Peters, Stephen
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ABSTRACT

This report summarizes policies dealing with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) education and AIDS carriers in the schools. It deals with statewide policies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina, providing reports on each of the six states in which questions on AIDS education and policies were answered. The questions on AIDS education examine who the contact person is who is responsible for developing the AIDS policy; the date of the most recent AIDS policy; the branch of state government responsible for administering and enforcing AIDS education and the type of enforcement which the state requires; which curriculum the state asks local school districts to use in AIDS education; and how AIDS education should be integrated into the regular school schedule. The questions on policies on AIDS carriers in the schools include: (1) contact person; (2) date of the policy; (3) branch of state government responsible for enforcement of the policy; (4) state's policy on forced or voluntary testing; (5) policies which may affect school employees who carry the AIDS virus; (6) state's policy on the requirements for expelling AIDS carriers from the classroom; and (7) degree of confidentiality due the AIDS carriers. (ABL)

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A Summary of AIDS Education Policies In Six Southeastern States

April 1988

Prepared by Stephen Peters for the

Southeastern Educational Improvement Laboratory

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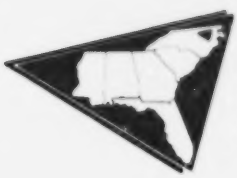

SOUTHEASTERN EDUCATIONAL IMPROVEMENT LABORATORY

P.O. Box 12746 ▲ 200 Park Offices ▲ Suite 204
Research Triangle Park ▲ North Carolina 27709
(919) 549-8216

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07-013

A Summary of AIDS Education Policies In Six Southeastern States

April 1988

Prepared by Stephen Peters for the

Southeastern Educational Improvement Laboratory

This report summarizes policies dealing with AIDS education and AIDS carriers in the schools. The report deals only with statewide policies in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

A series of AIDS education issues were chosen after studying policies, guidelines, suggestions and other informational material on AIDS from the six states. The report compares the six states on the basis of these issues.

AIDS Education

1. Contact. This item gives the contact person in the state responsible for developing the AIDS education policy.

2. Date. This item gives the date of the most recent AIDS education policy.

3. Enforcement. This item refers to the branch of state government charged with administering and enforcing the AIDS education policy. It also refers to the type of enforcement the state requires.

4. Curriculum. This item refers to the curriculum the state asks local school districts to use in AIDS education.

5. Curriculum Integration. This item refers to how the AIDS education curriculum should be integrated into the regular school schedule.

AIDS Carriers in the Schools

1. Contact. Same as above.

2. Date. Same as above.

3. Enforcement. Same as above.

4. Testing. This item refers to the states policy on forced or voluntary testing.

5. Employees. This item refers to any state policies that may affect school employees who carry the AIDS virus.

6. Expulsion. This item refers to the state's policy on the requirements for expelling AIDS carriers from the classroom.

7. Confidentiality. This item refers to the degree of confidentiality due AIDS carriers.

Alabama

AIDS Education

Contact: Martha Barton
Assistant State Superintendent
Student Instructional Services
Department of Education
State Office Building
Montgomery, Alabama 36130
(205) 261-5252

Date: November 12, 1987

Grades: 7-12. Curriculum for grades K-6 will be implemented in the 1988-89 school year.

Enforcement: Department of education policy. No records kept on compliance by local school districts.

Curriculum: Comprehensive and complete curriculum developed by the department of education.

Training: Alabama requires that at least two people from every school district attend a comprehensive training session on AIDS education. These people are in turn expected to train other AIDS educators in their school district.

Curriculum Integration: Local school districts decide where and how they will teach students about AIDS. Most schools integrate information on AIDS into traditional classes such as tenth-grade health.

Alabama's AIDS education program is comprehensive, sophisticated, and well planned. The program provides a thorough AIDS curriculum and training to teachers in all the Alabama's schools.

The AIDS education program, however, neither provides guidance on where the curriculum should be used in the schools nor a mechanism to evaluate how well the program is working.

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AIDS Carriers in the Schools

Date: No policy.

Enforcement: Left up to local school districts.

Testing: No policy.

Employees: No policy.

Expulsion: No policy.

Confidentiality: No policy.

Alabama has no state policy on AIDS virus carriers.

Florida

AIDS Education

Contact: Dorothy Routh
Department of Education
Tallanassee, Florida 32399
(904) 488-1611

Date: October 14, 1987

Grades: K-12.

Enforcement: Department of education guideline.

Curriculum: The Florida Department of Education will help local school districts choose, adapt, or create an AIDS curriculum. The state, however, does not provide a curriculum.

Training: The Florida Department of Education will assist local teacher training efforts.

Curriculum Integration: Florida Department of Education policy recommends that AIDS education be integrated into the high school "Life Management Skills" course, and the middle schools science and health curriculum. AIDS education should also to be included in the K-12 "Health Education and Substance Abuse Program."

The Florida Department of Education plans to promote AIDS education with four actions: (1) Establish and maintain an AIDS policy clearingnouse. (2) Join with other organizations and agencies to coordinate AIDS prevention and education. (3) Provide technical assistance on AIDS prevention, education and policy development to all levels of Florida's education system. (4) Establish and promote five AIDS education demonstration projects.

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AIDS Carriers in the Schools

Date: October 14, 1987

Enforcement: Department of education guideline.

Testing: No policy on forced testing.

Employees: No policy.

Expulsion: As a rule students are to be educated in the classroom unless they exhibit violent or aggressive behavior or are

unable to control bodily functions. Such students may be treated as special students or may be exempted from the law requiring compulsory education.

Confidentiality: Only those with a need to know should be informed of the student's condition. Otherwise, knowledge of the student's condition should be confidential.

Florida's policy on educating AIDS sufferers is based on federal and state laws. Actual policies for educating AIDS sufferers are to be developed and enforced by local school districts. These policies should balance the rights of all students to a public education with the responsibility to protect the safety of all students.

The state recommends that school districts establish a review panel to consider the case of each individual AIDS carrier. This panel should include the public health director, the student's physician, the student's parents, and other educational personnel. A guidance counselor or school nurse is appointed as the student's advocate, but at the same time, this advocate is charged with monitoring the student and reporting to the review panel.

Georgia

AIDS Education

Contact: Rendel Stalzey
Department of Education
1952 Twintowers East
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-5040
(404) 656-2414

Date: July 1, 1987

Grades: 6-12.

Enforcement: Department of education policy.

Curriculum: Georgia requires that local schools provide education on AIDS. Curriculum development is the responsibility of the localities. The state requires only that, "As a part of the education program, abstinence from sexual relations shall be emphasized." As of January 15, 1988, the department of education completed the first draft of a guide to AIDS curriculum. This guide is designed for teachers.

Training: Starting in May 1988, Georgia will begin offering workshops on AIDS education to administrators and health educators.

Curriculum Integration: None specified by state.

Georgia's earliest policies dealt almost exclusively with those carrying the AIDS virus. Georgia has just created a new curriculum guide and plans to sponsor workshops for training individuals who deal with AIDS education.

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AIDS Carriers in the Schools

Date: July 1, 1987

Enforcement: Department of education policy.

Testing: Mandatory for students or employees suspected of carrying the AIDS virus. Anyone carrying the AIDS virus is required to inform school authorities. Students who refuse testing are treated as AIDS sufferers; employees who refuse testing are fired.

Employees: Employees carrying the AIDS virus may be fired if they fail to report their condition, refuse to be tested when so requested, or pose a threat to others in the school setting.

Expulsion: Students cannot be denied education solely because they suffer from AIDS. Students may be removed from the classroom only if they pose a threat to others.

Confidentiality: Schools are required to maintain the confidentiality of AIDS sufferers.

Georgia's policy deals in much greater detail with AIDS sufferers than with AIDS education. The state requires only in a general way that school districts provide AIDS education. The policy on AIDS sufferers is much more detailed and inclusive.

Mississippi

AIDS Education

Contact: Ida Ballard
Regional Service Officer
Department of Education
Bureau of School Improvement
P.O. Box 771
Jackson, Mississippi 39205
(601) 359-3768

Date: Board of education will consider draft proposal in March of 1988.

Grades: No policy at present. Proposed policy would cover grades K-12.

Enforcement: No policy.

Curriculum: Department of education will recommend curriculum materials to local districts requesting help.

Training: Department of education will assist local teacher training efforts. The department of education is writing a proposal to the Council of Chief State School Officers for a grant to train AIDS educators.

Curriculum Integration: No policy.

The Mississippi Department of Education is creating a draft document on AIDS education. The board of education will consider this draft with the help of health experts, epidemiologists, and the medical community.

The proposed statement on education is based on the premises that local school districts are autonomous and that the AIDS education statement is only a guideline not a policy. The drafters of this statement also insist that all references to the disease be to HIV infection rather than AIDS.

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AIDS Carriers in the Schools

Date: Board of education will consider draft proposal in March 1988.

Enforcement: No policy.

Testing: No policy.

Employees: No policy.

Expulsion: No policy.

Confidentiality: No policy.

At the moment the state has no policy on AIDS carriers in the schools. The proposed guidelines call for a committee to assess the needs of HIV carriers in the schools. This committee is to consist of school administrators, health officials, and the child's physician. Those violating confidentiality are to be strongly disciplined.

North Carolina

AIDS Education

Contact: Bob Frye
Consultant for Health Education
Department of Public Instruction
Education Building
Raleigh, NC 27603-1712
(919) 733-3906

Date: December 18, 1987

Grades: K-12.

Enforcement: Department of public instruction guideline.

Curriculum: North Carolina's AIDS education curriculum emphasizes abstinence from sex and drugs as the preventive for AIDS. Although all other states emphasize abstinence, North Carolina makes this a mainstay of the curriculum. North Carolina also emphasizes the use of condoms, monogamy, and abstinence from intravenous drug use. In grade school, the curriculum consists of informal "teachable moments." From seventh through twelfth grades the state has recommended a formal curriculum based on the existing curriculum dealing with communicable diseases.

Training: The only training provided is a written curriculum guide.

Curriculum Integration: At all grade levels, AIDS education is to be informally integrated into the health curriculum. From sixth to eighth grades, AIDS education is to be incorporated into health education. AIDS education may also be integrated into such classes as biology, marriage and family, and social studies.

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction requires that all local school districts teach the AIDS curriculum to grades seven through twelve before the end of the 1987-1988 school year. This requirement is based on a legislative mandate to teach AIDS prevention.

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AIDS Carriers in the Schools

Date: December 18, 1987

Enforcement: No policy.

Testing:	No policy.
Employees:	Employees are to be provided with education on AIDS so that they will know how to deal with AIDS carriers and can reduce their own risk of exposure to AIDS.
Expulsion:	No policy.
Confidentiality:	No policy.

North Carolina's policy on AIDS carriers, as described in the most recent document on AIDS, is limited to providing education to students in those schools with AIDS carriers. The curriculum is designed to help students become sensitive to the feelings of AIDS sufferers, know that their own risk of contracting AIDS is low, and know of appropriate hygienic practices.

To help the local districts, the department of public instruction has issued a management advisory that explains the issues and pertinent laws related to AIDS. The state department of human resources issued, in 1986, a model policy on dealing with AIDS carriers in the schools.

South Carolina

AIDS Education

Contact: Ann Slater
Health Education Consultant
Department of Education
801 Rutledge Building
Columbia, South Carolina 29201
(803) 734-8378

Date: South Carolina has no formal policy on AIDS. Presently, the recommendation is that local school districts follow a set of guidelines developed by the South Carolina School Boards Association. New legislation now under consideration could change the present informal guidelines.

Grades: Middle and high schools are major targets.

Enforcement: Local school districts are autonomous. Thus, the department of education confines itself to providing technical assistance and a reminder about state laws on confidentiality and compulsory education.

Curriculum: A department of education advisory committee is reviewing commercial AIDS education curricula and will make recommendations.

Training: Training is informal. Help can be provided to local districts upon request. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control also provides AIDS education training, but only a few public school teachers have taken the one-day training course. The state department of education has submitted a grant proposal to the Centers for Disease Control. If received, the grant will allow South Carolina to establish a formal training program for the 1988-89 school year.

Curriculum Integration: No policy at present. The proposed legislation would require that AIDS education be integrated into health and family education.

Because of the autonomy of local school districts, the department of education confines itself to an advisory role. The major guide being used in the state is an AIDS Education Packet written by the South Carolina School Boards Association. This guide provides general help in constructing an AIDS education curriculum.

South Carolina differs from other states in the region because there is no state policy on AIDS education or plans to implement one. As a result, the role of providing AIDS education is divided between the department of

education, the South Carolina School Boards Association, and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

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AIDS Carriers in the Schools

Date:	No policy.
Enforcement:	No policy.
Testing:	No policy.
Employees:	No policy.
Expulsion:	State law requires compulsory education.
Confidentiality:	State law requires that the name of anyone carrying a sexually transmitted disease be kept confidential.

The department of education recommends that school districts follow the guidelines of the South Carolina School Boards Association. These recommendations rely on relating existing state laws to handling those with AIDS in the schools.